

# UNSUNG HERO AWARDS

**59th Awards Convocation  
March 4, 1999**



*The Unsung Hero Award is a new honor that recognizes Interior employees who have made valuable behind-the-scene contributions to the Department. Bureaus and offices recognize their Unsung Heroes throughout the year and forward up to 10 nominations annually to the Department for consideration as their top bureau or office Unsung Hero.*



**Mark Oliver**, formerly with the Office of the Secretary, was recognized for consistent hard work, commitment to accomplishing assigned tasks, and professionalism in relating to co-workers, managers, and others. He has served as the Diversity Council liaison since 1993, arranging meetings, helping with administrative needs, and serving as liaison between the council and deputy assistant secretary for Workforce Diversity. Oliver also works with the Special Emphasis Programs, providing behind-the-scenes planning and follow-up help to ensure the programs run smoothly. Oliver has unselfishly given his time and performed beyond the normal duties of his job. Despite constant deadlines and stressful times and regardless of the difficulty, he has always gone the extra mile.

**Donna R. Barton**, Office of the Solicitor: As head secretary in the Pacific Northwest Region, Barton has an extraordinary sense of obligation and dependability, coordinating secretarial support for 21 attorneys in the Portland Office. When other support staff are on leave, she has rescheduled her own leave to assure coverage. Though she had little knowledge of the technology involved, she also took on the job of LAN and computer troubleshooter, becoming very competent in assessing and correcting problems. Barton works after hours and on weekends to help resolve computer problems that would otherwise prevent attorneys from meeting court deadlines. Her strongest qualities are her honesty and integrity. She treats everyone with dignity, never hesitating to help others, most often in a crisis. Her calm demeanor and willingness to lend a hand have helped many co-workers complete projects with short fuses.



**Dagmar Fertl**, Minerals Management Service: A biologist with the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region Office, Fertl has extensive knowledge of marine biology, made notable contributions to scientific research, and conducted outreach efforts to interest students in science and the public in the Department's environmental missions. Her primary expertise is marine mammals and she is highly respected by her peers. Fertl has contributed significantly to MMS environmental impact statements and was a leader in developing an MMS marine mammal poster and teachers packet that received national acclaim. In addition to her 9 to 5 work, she joins Internet discussion groups on marine mammals and

communicates with colleagues after hours on a regular basis. She frequently makes presentations at schools, including weekend sessions, to teach children and others about marine mammals. Fertl has published numerous articles in scientific journals and attends many conferences to present papers and disseminate MMS environmental information, often paying her own expenses.

**Sue Martin**, Bureau of Land Management: As staff assistant for the Branch of Field and Office Services in Anchorage, Alaska, Martin is a highly motivated employee who provides innovative service. She makes many sacrifices, diligently serves BLM, and willingly takes on added duties. As positions in the unit decreased, Martin took on new work assignments to keep the organization running smoothly. She saw a benefit in recycling unused or slightly used uniforms and set up a uniform exchange that eventually made these uniforms available bureau-wide. She also became the statewide uniform coordinator. Martin has also taken courses on her own time that enable her to provide software assistance to all units at her location. Finally, she developed and helped present, both in Anchorage and in Fairbanks, a Power Point presentation on implementation of the new integrated charge cards. All of these projects were in addition to her regular staff assistant duties.



**Robert W. Simpson**, U.S. Geological Survey: Simpson provides extraordinary service by enriching the scientific quality of USGS products and enhancing communication with the broader earth science community and the public. He developed software for his research but made it easily available to the public. He led the development of a team website that furnishes real-time information on earthquakes in California and Nevada. The site integrates data from three seismological laboratories and provides easily accessible maps and text describing key features of earthquakes within minutes of their occurrence. Simpson also produced a suite of Geographical Information System plotting packages that display a wide array of geologic and geophysical datasets superimposed on topography and cultural features. The system is widely used by scientists in and outside the USGS. He also developed a suite of elastic dislocation and stress-change programs that make sophisticated calculations on how one earthquake can trigger or retard the next. He used these tools to develop ideas that have appeared in highly cited publications in *Science*, *Nature*, and *USGS Professional Papers*.



**William J. Halainen**, National Park Service: One of the most successful and effective NPS communication tools—*The Morning Report*—is the result of Halainen's dedication and hard work. Serving as the NPS's daily newspaper, the report relays the first news of special events, fires, law enforcement incidents, accidents, disasters, and deaths. It is read every business morning by virtually every NPS employee with a computer. Those without computers read the report later in the day in its printed version. In 12 years, Halainen has reported on more than 10,000 incidents in 2,500 editions. Using a laptop computer and telephone, Halainen produces and sends the report from all over the country: motel rooms, borrowed offices, kitchens, and even the back seats of automobiles. When on annual leave, he prepares and transmits the report from home or on the road. Yet, this is only a part-time collateral duty—about 15 percent of Halainen's paid workday. Much of the preparation work, including reading and responding to voluminous Email correspondence, is done on his personal time. Daily editions of the report are now on-line at the NPS website.

**Gary McIntosh**, Office of Surface Mining: As the leading authority on Geographic Information Systems in OSM's Technical Information Processing System, McIntosh has taught students from federal and state regulatory programs how to use this technology to improve decision-making on surface coal mining applications. He also helps them build the systems in their office programs, offers advice on solving development problems, and has consistently been available for technical support and encouragement. His positive attitude, wealth of technical knowledge, endless patience, enthusiasm in teaching others, and spirit of volunteerism have significantly helped OSM to implement information technology and share it with other agencies. His contributions paved the way for OSM to develop Geographic Information Systems that provide better tools for decision-making.







**Joe Dail Herrin**, Bureau of Indian Affairs: A financial specialist in the Office of Indian Education Programs, Dr. Joe D. Herrin is extremely competent, conscientious, dedicated, and loyal. He is a hardworking employee who often works late and on weekends to accomplish the goals he sets for himself. He works with the field offices to resolve problems and is always looking for ways to enhance the educational opportunities of Indian children. He gives much of his time, personal efforts, and dedication to the 185 schools and 23 tribal colleges and programs for which his office works. Without him the organization, the schools, and the Indian children would suffer. Without hesitation, Herrin will help anyone in need,

whether it is solving problems, carrying boxes, or fixing computers. Even though he is a financial specialist, he often supplies Indian schools with updated computer equipment that he personally gathers from other bureaus and offices on his own time. His dedication, time, and personal efforts are aimed at making the Office of Indian Education Programs succeed. His loyalty and commitment honorably serve the mission of the Department of the Interior.

**Harry Sears**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: A maintenance mechanic at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex for 30 years, Sears can handle any job—heavy equipment operation, automotive repair, plumbing, construction, woodworking, hard labor, even providing visitors with information. Until recently, he was the only maintenance worker for the nine-unit complex. Sears is 91 and has 40 years of federal service. His woodworking skill is evident throughout the complex, where visitors are greeted by large wood-routed entrance and directional signs that he made. Sears operates a half dozen types of heavy equipment. When National Park Service neighbors at Minute Man National Historical Park needed help restoring a field and removing a structure, he was there in a minute, removing boulders and bricks. Sears also works on controlling aquatic weeds at Great Meadows, hauling harvested material and servicing the machine. When there weren't enough staffers last year, Sears jumped aboard and not only operated the machine but also trained others how to run it. He commutes to work 50 miles each way daily and when there are immediate needs at the refuge, he's there in travel time.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

*The Information Technology Award recognizes exceptional achievements that have resulted in cost savings, coordination of information activities across bureau lines, development and integration of software into Departmental programs, creative and efficient configuration of our technology infrastructure, or other major contributions in the information technology field, including Year 2000 compatibility activities.*

## WINNERS OF THE 1997-1998 IT AWARDS

**Bureau of Land Management IRM Infrastructure & Access Group:** for developing and putting into use a common information technology infrastructure between BLM and U.S. Forest Service field sites.

**The Department of the Interior Local Area Network Administrator's Group:** for developing and installing the first Year 2000 compliant multi-bureau electronic mail system in the Department.



From left, Richard Jensen, Carol Lawson, Patrick Murphy, Barbara Stocker, and Robert Tilling receive the IT Award from USGS Director Charles Groat. The award recognized the **U.S. Geological Survey Volcano Hazards Team and Western Region Branch of Information Services** for developing an IT network infrastructure that provides integrated volcanic and seismic detection information as these natural disasters occur (real-time) to support local, state, and federal agencies that respond to these public emergencies.

## WINNERS OF THE 1998-1999 IT AWARDS



**William S. Pfancuff**, deputy chief information officer for Interior's Office of Information Resources, presents Secretary Babbitt a Y2K awareness hat after receiving an IT Award from the Secretary.

At left, from left, Steve Kopach, the deputy state director for Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records, and Hord Tipton, director of the BLM Eastern States Office, receive an IT Award from BLM Acting Director Tom Fry on behalf of the team that developed the **Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records Internet Web Site** that provides live database and image access to more than two million federal title documents for public lands in the East.





Robert Brown, left, the associate director for Administration and Budget, Randy Maples, right, receive an IT Award on behalf of the **Minerals Management Service-Y2K Steering Committee**. The team successfully coordinated the renovation of the MMS Technology Information Management and Royalty Management Accounting Systems in advance of due dates, validating the ABACAS system, testing critical links to data exchange partners, and completing an inventory of more than 1,175 embedded chip systems.



From left, Barbara Ryan, Donna Scholz, Carolyn Reid, and Beth Duff receive an IT Award from USGS Director Charles Groat in recognition of their effort on the **U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Research and Development Agreement**—a joint effort with Microsoft Corporation to develop a web-based capability to search, view, and order digital aerial photography data.



# CONSERVATION SERVICE AWARDS

The Conservation Service Award is presented to groups or individuals who are not employed by Interior but who have performed outstanding and direct service to the Department. It is the highest honor that the Secretary can bestow on a private citizen or group.



**Dangling Rope Photovoltaic Project Partners**  
Sponsored by the National Park Service

Spectators examine some of the 384 photovoltaic panels at Dangling Rope Marina in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area during the official dedication of the project in 1996. The panels produce 115 kilowatts of power for the remote NPS facility that serves boaters on Lake Powell. NPS formed a partnership with the Utah Office of Energy and Resource Planning, ARAMARK Lake Powell Resorts and Marina, PacificCorp/Utah Power, Sandia National Laboratory, and the Applied Power Corporation to fund, design, and build the \$1.5 million hybrid photovoltaic/propane generator system. The project will save the NPS more than \$2 million over the next 20 years and will protect the environment by using renewable solar energy and eliminating the risk of a major diesel spill on Lake Powell. NPS sponsored the project for the Conservation Award.

Conservation Awards for individuals sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **Gary N. Brown, Benedict Cerven** (posthumously), **Tom Bedell, Randall L. Hoffman, Terry and Mary Kohler, and Helen Seiver.**

**Western Canal Water District:** Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Frankie Hewitt:** Sponsored by the National Park Service, Hewitt was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the restoration of the Ford's Theatre as a National Historic Site.



**Avian Power Line Interaction Committee:**  
Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



**Clifford W. Smith** receives Conservation Award from USGS Director Charles Groat.



Kathy Karpan, right, director of the Office of Surface Mining, presents an Interior Partnership Award to Doug Larson, who accepts on behalf of the **Western Interstate Energy Board**. OSM sponsored the board for the award.





**Native American Fish and Wildlife Society:**  
Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



**Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Team:** Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



# DIVERSITY AWARDS

*The Secretary's Diversity Awards recognize and honor individual employees or groups of employees who have demonstrated exemplary service and/or have made significant contributions to the Department's efforts to substantially increase diversity at all levels. The awards recognize six categories of achievement.*

## MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT



**Richard W. Voss**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, receives his Diversity Award for Management Achievement from FWS Director Jamie Rappaport Clark.



**Luis Maez** received his Diversity Award for his work with the Bureau of Reclamation, where he is an audit officer.



From left, **David P. Russ** and **C. Larry Togans**, U.S. Geological Survey, receive their Diversity Award for Management Achievement from USGS Director Charles Groat.

## EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENT



**Amy L. Berger**, U.S. Geological Survey, receives her Diversity Award for Employee Achievement from USGS Director Charles Groat.



From left, **Bill LeBarron**, of BLM's Wyoming State Office; **Ray Wilson**, EEO officer for the Wyoming State Office; and **Al Pierson**, director of the Wyoming State Office, receive an Organizational Award for Diversity from BLM Acting Director Tom Fry.



**Alan M. Ward**, left, U.S. Geological Survey, receives his Diversity Award from USGS Director Charles Groat. Ward was recognized for his achievements in Accessibility and Employment of Persons with Disabilities.

**Division of Administration, Office of the Solicitor** received an award for hiring and accommodating the needs of deaf employees.

## LONG-TERM ACHIEVEMENT

## SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT



**James Cherry**, left, deputy area manager for Reclamation's Lower Colorado Dams Facilities Office, reorganized the Hoover Dam police force.

Far left, **J. Neil Stessman**, Bureau of Reclamation, receives Diversity Award for his Long-Term Achievement. Left, OSM Director Karpan presents Diversity Award for Special Emphasis Programs to **Diane C. Wood**, Office of Surface Mining. On the right is Ortris Lucas, Wood's mother. On the left is Derrick Medley, Wood's fiancé.

## PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

*The Department's Labor/Management Partnership Council developed the Partnership Award program as a way to recognize and publicize outstanding partnerships in the Department and to encourage the formation of new partnerships.*

### LABOR/MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR

**Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management and National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 1911**

### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP

**Portland Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Federation of Federal Employees**

**Santa Monica National Recreation Area, National Park and Service and Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 585**

## PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS

### DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVE

**Robert Ewing**, Office of Surface Mining  
**Ronald Jaeger**, Bureau of Indian Affairs

### MERITORIOUS EXECUTIVE

**Robert D. Barbee**, National Park Service  
**Robert E. Brown**, Minerals Management Service  
**Robert J. Lamb**, Office of the Secretary  
**R. Schuyler Leshner, Jr.**, Office of the Secretary  
**Donald T. Lauer**, U.S. Geological Survey  
**Mary Ann Lawler**, Office of the Secretary  
**Hilda A. Manuel**, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
**Carmen R. Maymi**, Bureau of Reclamation  
**Chris Oynes**, Minerals Management Service  
**Marie G. Rust**, National Park Service

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

*The Meritorious Service Award recognizes outstanding contributions to bureau and Departmental programs, major accomplishments, and exceptional support of Interior's missions. It is the second highest honor awarded by the Department for professional and career achievements. The awards were presented at bureau and office levels in 1997-1998.*

### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Larry Bagranoff; Karen M. Burke; Debra E. Sonderman; Dean A. Titcomb; Gary F. Gillespie; Gayle F. Gordon; William S. Pfancuff; Elmer John Hurd, Jr.**

### OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

**Richard K. Aldrich; Ralph O. Canaday; Kathleen A. Miller; Lyle K. Rising**

### BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

**Norman T. Suazo**

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**Francis R. Cherry, Jr.**

### MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

**Vicki R. Agnew; Patricia W. Callis; Mary C. Carter; Byron R. Congdon; David W. Cooke; Richard E. Defenbaugh; Stephen R. Gorey; Mary Ann Hanks; Carol A. Hartgen; Ronald J. Hatton; Susan D. Hester; Christine R. Huffaker; Gary L. Johnson; Ronald R. Konecni; Robert P. LaBelle; Maxie V. Lambert; Kenneth E. Madsen; Jill Stivers Martin; James W. May; Robert W. Middleton; Harshadray D. Patel; Bruce W. Perry; Villere C. Reggio; John L. Rodi; Edwidene F. Rooks; Marshall B. Rose; John J. Russo; Philip D. Sykora; Leland F. Thormahlen; Deborah Gibbs Tschudy; Mary Ann Turner; Norman L. Weaver; Mary A. Williams; Richard F. Wilderman; Robert J. Vayda**

### OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

**Shirley W. Cossey; Gene E. Krueger; Mary E. Peyton; A. Dwight Thomas; Brent T. Wahlquist**

### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

**Max Van Den Berg; Thomas G. Burbey; Steven R. Clark; Felix W. Cook, Sr.; Dallas L. Linford; K. Dianne Mohr; William S. Opdyke; Jack C. Pong, Jr.; Garry M. Rowe; Milton Shrader; J. Lawrence Von Thun**

### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**Roger L. Banks; Olin E. Bray; Mark Butler; John H. Doebel; Canrad A. Fjetland; George L. Gies; Joel G. Greenstein; Jerry C. Grover; William F. Harrison; Thomas J. Kerze; David R. Kraft; John Richard Lemon; Carl R. Madsen; Joseph P. Mazzoni; Edward S. Moses; Gary G. Mowad; Paul R. Nickerson; Alfred L. Radtke; James L. Sheridan; Henry L. Short; Cathleen I. Short; Roger J. Turnquist; Gerald H. Updike; Robert F. Williams; Cheryl C. Williss**

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**William H. Anderson; Raymond Begay; Norman A. Bishop; Marcia D. Blaszk; Edward F. Clark; Mary K. Foley; Richard T. Gale; Robert C. Marriott; Thomas M. McConnell; Marilyn G. Merrill; David K. Morris; Donald L. Neubacher; Patricia L. Neubacher; Martin C. Ott; John C. Poppeliers; Alexander L. Rives; William B. Robertson, Jr.; William A. Sanders; William R. Shields; William W. Swift; Robert K. Yearout**